

Fact Sheet

CAWTAR Launches E-Library and Resource Website Arab Women and Local Governance

<http://localgov.cawtar.org>

On March 8, 2007, the Center of Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) will launch a specialized e-library and on-line resource center on Arab women and local governance: <http://localgov.cawtar.org>

Covering the countries of Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Yemen, resources on the site include empirical country studies, legislation, best practices, bibliographies, contact information of experts and specialized institutions in the region and views of the Arab media regarding women's leadership, electoral candidacy and political participation in local governance.

The website's advocacy network includes the network's charter of principles and the terms of its membership which is open to research centers, advocacy groups, NGOs, and the media. The site's electronic platform will disseminate key developments and policy-briefs to decision-makers to advocate for women's effective participation in local governance.

This website will benefit activists and practitioners working throughout the region, including women leaders, researchers, NGOs, advocacy groups and the media.

This multimedia website and e-forum will foster interactive discussion among activists on how to better influence policies relating to women's effective participation in elections and decision-making at the local and national levels. Its special link covering the project's news embodies a quarterly monthly newsletter authored by CAWTAR's partner NGOs and journalists, where relevant advocacy activities are highlighted.

This project is supported by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), United States Department of State.

To visit CAWTAR's e-library and join the network, please go to: <http://localgov.cawtar.org>

Press Release

CAWTAR Launches E-Library and Resource Website Arab Women and Local Governance

<http://localgov.cawtar.org>

On March 8, 2007, International Women's Day, the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), **will** launch an e-library and on-line resource center on Arab Women and Local Governance, a priority issue for women's leadership and their effective participation as equal citizens. The website, <http://localgov.cawtar.org>, is a product of the Center's regional project, which collected information, best practices and other resources about Arab women's challenges and achievements in local government in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Yemen, where decentralization has been an effective mechanism to enhance efficiency and participation in decision-making process.

The first of its kind in the Arab World, this website will be a key resource to women leaders, advocacy groups and the media alike, where users can access empirical national studies, bibliographies, national legislation, and contact information for resources persons and institutions active in the field of women's participation in local governance, including as leaders, candidates and voters.

The website also features an electronic platform for participants and users to interactively exchange views on their strategies and activities to strengthen women's leadership in decentralized local structures and to strengthen their ability to address their constituencies' demands for social services and grassroots participation.

As we celebrate International Women's Day and the ongoing struggle for the rights of women as equal citizens, CAWTAR sends its best wishes for success and prosperity for all women of the world.

This project is supported by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), United States Department of State.

To visit CAWTAR's e-library and join the network, please go to: <http://localgov.cawtar.org>